mushroom cultivation & poultry farming, utilising geothermal fluid, are under implementation in Puga Valley, district Ladakh in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

A 150 KW experiemental wave power plant at Vizhinjam, Kerala was set up and production of electricity has been successfully demonstrated. Refining of technology is presently in progress. Under the wind energy programme wind farms of aggregated capacity of 19.6 MW have been installed in the coastal areas of the country for generation of power.

Under the biomass gasification programme, an experimental project has been taken up in a few villages of hilly region of Pauri Garhwal in the State of Uttar Pradesh for the development and demonstration of application package around gasifier system using a locally available shrub, Lantana-Camara, as feed material for providing electricity to community/domestic lighting and cottage industries. The Biomass Research Centre at Bhubaneswar (Orissa) and Biomass Research Centre, Srinagar (U.P) has been established to increase the productivity of fast growing fuelwood species, develop suitable methodologies and to prepare package of practices suitable for plantation for East-Coast plain and hilly region and western Himalayan region respectively.

Statement

Status of systems & devices installed in the country

Sl. No.	Programme	Units	Cumulative Achievement upto 31.8.92
1	2	3	4
1.	Family size bilgas plants	Nos. in lakh	16.16
2.	Community/ Institutional Biogas Plants	Nos.	82.0
3.	Improved Chulhas	Nos. in lakh	127.56
4.	Domestic Solar Water Heating Systems	Nos.	10.292
5.	Industrial Solar Water Heating Systems	Nos.	4.907
6.	Solar Stills	Nos.	9.783
7.	Solar Timber Kilns	Nos.	71
8.	Solar Air heaters	Nos.	61
9.	Solar Cookers	Nos.	2,27,483
10.	Village provided with Photovoltaic street lights	Nos.	8,394
11	Photovoltaic Water Pumps	Nos.	741
12.	Photovoltaic Power Units	KWp	316.9
13.	Photovoltaic Community lights/ TV and community facilities	Nos.	719
14.	Photovoltaitc Domestic lighting units	Nos.	11,430
15.	Photovoltaic Street Lights	Nos.	28,887
16.	Wind Pumps	Nos.	2,922
17.	Wind Fans	MW	42.97
18.	Mini-Micro Hydro	MW	86.44
19.	Urjagram Energy Surveys	Nos.	1,622
20.	Urjagram Projects	Nos.	168
21.	Biomass Energy Plantations	Hectares	17,110
22.	Biomass Gasifiers/ Stirling Engines	Nos.	1,040

Decision taken at the second conference of Ministers of Non-Conventional Energy

3746. SHRI T.A. MOHAMMED SAQHY:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what decisions were taken in the second conference of the Ministers' Incharge of Non-Conventional Energy;

(b) whether new technology has been developed to produce solar energy;

(c) what steps are being taken to achieve the target of additional power generation from non-conventional energy sources during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the amount spent so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources organised the Second Conference of Ministers of Non-Conventional Energy Sources of State Governments and Union Territories on 29th October, 1992

Salient recommendations of the conference are given as under:

1. Taking up of policy decisions by various State Governments for allowing generation of power through renewable energy sources by private sector promoters, including wheeling, banking and purchase of power by State Electricity Boards.

2. State Governments/Nodal Agencies to promote development of appropriate post installation services for maintenance and upkeep of non-conventional energy systems and devices.

3. Making sustained efforts to develop and disseminate various types of systems and devices based on renewable sources of energy for power generation, process heat and supplementing/conservation of cooking fuel.

4. Providing adequate financial resources and incentives by the central and State Governments during the successive Annual Plans.

5. Development and popularisation of NRSE to be launched as a mass movement by Central Government; State Government; social, scientific and charitable institutions so as to develop NRSE culture in the length and breadth of the country for better energy availability, economic growth and sustained all round development together with better environment.

(b) The technology to manufacture Solar Cells using a new material, namely, Amorphous Silicon has been developed through an integrated programme of R&D and pilot production. A plant for the production of Amorphous Silicon Solar Cells was dedicated to the nation on 18th September, 1992.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to take up power generation projects of about 300 MW aggregate capacity based on wind energy, small hydro and solar energy; including private sector projects. In addition, it is proposed to install 25000 numbers of solar photovoltaic lighting systems, 600 number of solar photovoltaic water pumps, 4000 numbers of wind pumps and 500 numbers of wind battery charges throughout the country. Energy generation projects based on Biomass based technologies are also proposed to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan Rs. 857 crores have been provided for development and utilisation of various types of non-conventional energy systems and devices to the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Rs. 27 crores provided for generation of power/energy through Solar Photovoltaic, Wind and Small Hydro development programmes are likely to be spent during the Ist year (1992-93) of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Reduction in the retirement age of Government servants

3747. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the age limit of retirement of Government servants from 58 to 55, if so, whether this would produce more employment opportunities for youths;

(b) whether Government are proposed to implement the "golden hand shake" scheme for Government employees for premature retirement; and